



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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MICHIGAN, East

MIZ047>049-053>055-060>063-068>070-075>076-082>083 Midland - Bay - Huron - Saginaw - Tuscola - Sanilac - Shiawassee - Genesee - Lapeer - St. Clair - Livingston - Oakland - Macomb - Washtenaw - Wayne - Lenawee - Monroe

13	2100EST	0	0	19M	Ice Storm
14	1200EST				

Low pressure tracked from the central Plains northeast across southeast lower Michigan late on the 13th through the 14th. The storm brought widespread precipitation to southeast Michigan from late on the 13th through midday on the 14th. North of Detroit, nearly all of the precipitation fell in the form of freezing rain, with small amounts of snow and sleet noted in a few spots. From Detroit and Ann Arbor south to the state-line, the freezing rain changed to rain, but not before heavy ice accumulations occurred. Total precipitation amounts ranged from 1.5 to nearly 2.5 inches from Detroit and Ann Arbor south to the Ohio state-line. From the northern suburbs of Detroit north to Flint and Port Huron, amounts ranged from 0.8 to 1.5 inches. North of that area, amounts ranged from 0.40 to 0.80 inches.

In the Detroit Metropolitan area, the ice storm resulted in power outages to over 425,000 homes and businesses; the 3rd largest outage in history, and the worst ever for an ice storm. Several thousand residents were without power for as long as 4 days. In addition to powerlines, falling trees damaged dozens of cars and houses throughout the area. Most schools were closed, and there were numerous auto accidents.

MIZ069>070-076-082>083 Oakland - Macomb - Wayne - Lenawee - Monroe

14	0400EST	0	0	50K	Flood
	1400EST				

The same storm that brought heavy ice accumulations to southeast Michigan also brought flooding to many areas from Detroit south to the Ohio state-line. Total precipitation amounts ranged from 1.5 to nearly 2.5 inches across that area. Some of the higher totals included 2.27 inches at Tecumseh, 2.24 inches at Dundee and 2.18 inches at Morenci. I-94 was flooded in southern Macomb county between 9 and 12 Mile roads during the morning of the 14th. The Lodge freeway was also flooded in southern Oakland county during that time. Lakeshore flooding along the west shore of Lake Erie was most severe at Estral Beach, where strong easterly winds associated with the storm pushed 2 feet of water onto the shore. In addition, there was some minor river flooding throughout far southeast lower Michigan (details next section).

MIZ076

Wayne

14	0500EST	0	0	Flood
15	2000EST			

The Middle Rouge River at Garden City went above its 7.0 foot flood stage at 5 am on the 14th. The river crested at 8.4 feet at 7 pm on the 14th, and fell back below flood stage at 8 pm on the 15th.

MIZ076

Wayne

14	1200EST	0	0	Flood
15	1000EST			

The Lower Rouge River from Inkster to Dearborn went above its 10.0 foot flood stage at noon on the 14th. The river crested at 11.0 feet at 8 pm on the 14th, and fell back below flood stage at 10 am on the 15th.

MIZ075

Washtenaw

14	1200EST	0	0	Flood
15	1500EST			

The Saline River at Saline went above its 10.0 foot flood stage at noon on the 14th. The river crested at 10.7 feet at 8 pm on the 14th, then fell back below flood stage at 3 pm on the 15th.



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MICHIGAN, East

MIZ082

Lenawee

14 1500EST
17 1600EST

0 0

Flood

The Raisin River at Tecumseh went above its 9.0 foot flood stage at 3 pm on the 14th. The river crested at 10.5 feet at 11 am on the 15th, and fell back below flood stage at 4 pm on the 17th.

MIZ082

Lenawee

14 2100EST
17 1600EST

0 0

Flood

The Raisin River at Adrian went above its 11.0 foot flood stage at 9 pm on the 14th. The river crested at 12.1 feet at 9 am on the 17th, and fell back below flood stage at 4 pm on the 17th.